

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) A seed tape (1) ~~including comprising~~: successively arranged germinating units (1a, 1b, 1c), ~~and which further includes~~ including at least one carrier strip (3) ~~as well as and~~ at least one auxiliary layer (5) of biodegradable, flexible, non-woven or film-like material arranged on said carrier strip, whereby said auxiliary layer (5) is locally interrupted a short distance along the seed tape (1), and whereby each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) includes a mixture of granulated carrier, at least one granulated additive and an adjuvant in addition to one or more seeds (7), said mixture plus the seed(s) being kept together to form at least one core portion (8) including an incision, in the germinating unit, ~~as well as and~~ whereby said seed tape can be cut into separate germinating units prior to ~~the~~ irrigation and/or ~~the~~ bedding out, the core portion (8) made of said mixture including locally adhered fibers (18) of one or more thermoplastic materials which form a coherent, open network (8a) for keeping the granules (6a) of the mixture together, ~~characterised in that wherein the fibres~~ fibers of one or more thermoplastic materials which form the network (18a) are bicomponent fibers ~~fibres~~, and ~~that~~ the seed or seeds (7) is/are placed in ~~an~~ the incision (10) in the core portion (8), said incision (10) being of a depth (d) of 25 to 50% of ~~the~~ a thickness (t) of said core portion (8), and wherein an outer component of each bicomponent fiber is made of polyactide (derived from lactic acid) (PLA) having a relatively low melting point, whereas an inner component of said fiber is made of polyactide (derived from lactic acid) (PLA) having a relatively high melting point.

2. (currently deleted)

3. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the incision ~~(40)~~ forms an angle ~~( $\alpha$ )~~ of 40 to 65° with the longitudinal axis ~~(A)~~ of the seed tape.

4. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the incision ~~(40)~~ is substantially Z-shaped.

5. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier strip ~~(3)~~ and/or the auxiliary layer ~~(5)~~ are made of a thermoplastic material, said material being of a weight of 15 to 30 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

6. (currently amended) A seed tape as ~~claimed in claim 1, characterized in that~~ comprising: successively arranged germinating units including at least one carrier strip and at least one auxiliary layer of biodegradable, flexible, non-woven or film-like material arranged on said carrier strip, whereby said auxiliary layer is locally interrupted a short distance along the seed tape, and whereby each germinating unit includes a mixture of granulated carrier, at least one granulated additive and an adjuvant in addition to one or more seeds, said mixture plus the seed(s) being kept together to form at least one core portion including an incision, in the germinating unit, and whereby said seed tape can be cut into separate germinating units prior to irrigation and/or bedding out, the core portion made of said mixture including locally adhered fibers of one or more

thermoplastic materials which form a coherent, open network for keeping the granules of the mixture together, wherein the fibers of one or more thermoplastic materials which form the network are bicomponent fibers, and the seed or seeds is/are placed in the incision in the core portion, said incision being of a depth of 25 to 50% of the a thickness of said core portion, wherein the bicomponent ~~fibers~~ fibres (18) of polylactide (derived from lactic acid) (PLA) form 4 to 9% by weight of the mixture, whereas a superabsorbing polymer (SAP) forms 1 to 7% by weight of said mixture.

7. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bicomponent ~~fibers~~ fibres (18) of the core portion and optionally also the carrier, the additive and the adjuvant, if any, have been placed on the carrier strip (3) by means of air.

8. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the seed(s) (7) or the granules of the mixture has/have been placed on the carrier strip (3) or in the core portion (8) by said seed(s) or granules being magnetized through a coating and thereby being attracted to the carrier strip (3) or the core portion (8) by means of small lumps or stripes of permanent-magnet-powder arranged on said carrier strip or on said core portion.

9. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the coating used on the seed(s) (7) or the granules include starch or polymers as well as magnetic powder in form of iron powder, plus insecticides, fungicides or other adjuvants.

10. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the carrier has been microencapsulated before it is placed in the core portion (8).

11. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the at least one carrier strip (3) is made of paper, a second carrier strip ~~not shown~~ is made of PLA, and ~~an~~ the auxiliary layer (5) is made of paper or PLA, ~~characterised in that~~ and wherein the auxiliary layer (5) is secured to the PLA carrier strip by means of a pressure-sensitive or heat-sensitive glue, which has been applied onto the auxiliary layer in advance.

12. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that in said~~ wherein in the incision (IP) in which one or more seed(s) (7) is/are placed, said seed(s) is/are retained by means of glue or magnetic particles.

13. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, wherein said incision (10) is of a depth (d) of 33 to 40% of the thickness (t) of said core portion (8).

14. (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 3, wherein said angle (v) is 45 to 55°.

15. (previously amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 5, wherein said material has a weight of 18 to 22 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

16. (previously amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 5, wherein said material has a weight of 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

17. (currently amended) A seed tap as claimed in claim 6, wherein said biocomponent ~~fibres~~ fibers form 7 to 8% by weight of the mixture and said superabsorbing polymer forms 2.5% by weight of the mixture.

18. (previously amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 8, wherein said small lumps or stripes of permanent-magnet-powder comprise strontium-barium-ferrite powder or titanium dioxide and barium ferrite powder.